



*“Faith in the resurrection
opens us to fraternal communion,
beyond the threshold of death”
(RdV 24)*



Today 9 September 2019 at 4.13 am (local time)
in the community of san José in São Paulo (Brazil),
our sister **BENEDITA LIBERATA SR ROSARIA RIBEIRO**
returned to the Father’s House.

She was 90 years old and 62 years of Religious Life

Only in God does my soul find rest, from Him comes my hope, with these words from Psalm 61, which today's liturgy offers us, Sr Rosaria takes her leave quietly from this world.

Benedita was born on 2 December 1928 in Jacutinga/MG (Brazil) and baptized on 23 November 1929, in the parish of the Holy Spirit, Pinhal - São Paulo.

She was the first Brazilian vocation to enter the Congregation on 21 January 1947, in São Paulo - Villa Mariana - after meeting mother Nives Negri and mother Rosaria Nazzari in the church of São Gonçalo.

Sr Rosaria was a generous, simple sister who particularly loved the pastoral mission with the young, the sick and the pastoral care of families. She had a strong devotion to Our Lady and she loved to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist daily.

She entered the novitiate on 5 January 1956 in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo, made her First Profession the following year on 6 January in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo, with the name of Sr Rosaria and she made her Perpetual Profession on 6 January 1962.

Sr Rosaria belonged to the group of the first ten Brazilian Pastorelle. After the first years spent in Caxias do Sul/RS, she carried out various responsibilities in various places in Brazil. In 1967, she was in Porto Alegre/RS, from 1968 to 1970 in Caxias do Sul - San Leopoldo, in 1971 in Porto Alegre and in 1973 in Caxias do Sul - Terceira Léguas. In 1980, she was in Regente Feijó/SP and in 1984 in Brasília/DF. In 1986 she was in São Paulo – Jabaquara, and again in Brasília in 1988 and then again in São Paulo - Jabaquara in 1992. From 1996 to 2005, she was in São Paulo – Jardim. In 2006, she was in São Paulo, Casa San José. In 2015, she was again in San Paolo – Jardim, and in 2019, she returned to São Paulo – Casa San José.

On the 70th anniversary of our presence in Brazil, Sr Rosaria left us a testimony of life from which transpires a beautiful part of our Congregational history and of the Pauline Family. She wrote, *My vocation to the life of a Pastorella began like this: I was 16 years old*

and I liked going to church to pray. One December day in 1946, I was in the church of San Gonzalo, in the João Mendes Square, in São Paulo, and there were two sisters also praying there. I approached them and I touched the shoulder of one of them at the very moment they were saying to each other "What a beautiful Madonna!" The two sisters welcomed me with joy, but since they did not speak Portuguese and neither did I know Italian, we went to the house of the Franciscan friars who facilitated our communication. I learnt their names: they were Mother Maria Nives Negri and Mother Rosaria Nazzari, who belonged to the Congregation of the Pastorelle Sisters. Therefore, I was able to express to them my desire to become a Religious. After a long conversation, we arranged to meet again with the aim of getting to know each other better, this happened in the home of the Daughters of St. Paul.

After keeping in touch for some time, we agreed that I would join the Congregation and to my delight, this came true on 21 January 1947. The sisters were renting a house in Via Lins Vasconcelos, 3.514 - Villa Mariana where they were starting a kindergarten (Lar do Menino Jesus)...

We received great help from the Paulines and the Daughters of St. Paul.

... After several years living in the Congregation, I wanted to do my novitiate, but this had not been granted and it saddened me. Then during the visit of the Primo Maestro, James Alberione in 1953, I was asked what was happening to me and I said that my companions in formation and I wished to enter the novitiate. He promised saying to us: "Soon, very soon, I will provide".

Upon returning to Italy, he sent Mother Celina Orsini to get to know the Brazilian group. As soon as Mother Celina returned to Italy, she sent Mother Agnese Simonotti to be our novitiate mistress. This gave us great joy. Therefore, in January 1956 ten of us began our novitiate. On 6 January 1957, we made our First Profession. I received the name, Rosaria, as a tribute to Mother Rosaria Nazzari who had offered her life for Brazilian vocations.

...It has always been a great satisfaction for me to see the number of young people entering the Congregation grow; I myself, from every trip I made, came back with two or more young people. How gratifying it was to see that we Pastorelle were opening more communities and that the Church gained more missionaries who proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Good Shepherd.

Let us bless the Lord for the gift of the life and vocation of Sr Rosaria. We entrust to her intercession the Church in Brazil and our presence in Brazil and in the world, that we may be blessed with good and holy vocations.

We thank the sisters of the Province who have lovingly cared for our sister in her illness. Thank you, Sr Rosaria, for your life given to the Good Shepherd and at the service of the people of God.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Lima – Peru, 9 September 2019